



Legal Aid Agency

Birmingham Regional Office

Cannon House, 18, The Priory Queensway

Birmingham, B4 6BS

To: All Scheme Members of the Staffordshire CJS Scheme Areas

Dear Sir / Madam,

Re: Consultation on changes to the membership of the Staffordshire North and Staffordshire South Police Station Duty Schemes resulting from a consultation held in June 2019 as a result of the Staffordshire Police decision to close the Burton upon Trent Custody Suite.

This letter constitutes formal notice, under paragraph 6.60 of the 2017 Standard Crime Contract Specification - Duty Solicitor Provisions, which states we may consult on a proposal to change the postcode boundaries in respect of a scheme following the closure of a police station.

Please note: there are no further amendments to Contract arrangements – remuneration for Police Station work will remain unchanged.

This letter will deal specifically with proposed changes to the scheme membership affected by the closure of Burton upon Trent Custody Suite. The result of the consultation in June 2019, was that Duty Solicitors from Burton upon Trent became members of the Police Station rota on the North Staffordshire scheme, whilst remaining as members of the Staffordshire South Court Duty scheme. This causes an anomaly in the operation of the two duty schemes for providers based in Burton upon Trent and impacts the Postcode Tool when assessing which scheme a provider is able to join.

Scheme members from Staffordshire North, (Stoke on Trent and Newcastle under Lyme and Burton and Uttoxeter), and Staffordshire South, (Stafford, Cannock and Rugeley and Tamworth and Lichfield), Police Station schemes are invited to respond.

Existing scheme arrangements will continue for the duration of the current duty rotas up to and including Wednesday 31st March 2021. Thereafter, following the outcome

of this consultation, any new arrangements will be applied from Thursday 1st April 2021. Revised rotas for this period will be issued in advance.

You are invited to submit any comments regarding the proposal in writing, marked **“Burton upon Trent Police Station Duty Scheme Consultation”** in the subject box by email to:

Jack.hunter@justice.gov.uk by **5pm on Wednesday 10th February 2021.**

The timetable for this consultation exercise is as follows:

Stage	Duration	Start/end date
Consultation Period	3 weeks	20th January 2021 to 10th February 2021
Consideration and of responses	1 week	11th February 2021 to 17th February 2021
Notification of any changes		No later than 17th February 2021
Issue of new rotas		Latest 1st March 2021
Date changes would take effect		1st April 2021

Proposed Changes

Please find below proposed changes to the existing Staffordshire Police Station schemes.

We have tried to keep changes to schemes to a minimum, whilst considering the likely impact on levels of service to clients from solicitors whose offices will no longer be local to the police station dealing with their matter.

Below are the changes being proposed:

MOVE DUTY SOLICITORS LOCATED IN BURTON UPON TRENT FROM THE STAFFORDSHIRE NORTH POLICE STATION DUTY SCHEME TO THE STAFFORDSHIRE SOUTH POLICE STATION DUTY SCHEME.

The proposal is that the two providers currently located in Burton upon Trent are removed from the Staffordshire North Police Station duty scheme and are moved on to the Staffordshire South Police Station duty scheme. This would align the Court and Police Station duty rotas.

The Postcode Tool would be amended to show that all postcodes in the Burton upon Trent and Uttoxeter areas would be eligible for the Staffordshire South Police Station and Court Duty rota only, with the exception of the County Wide Remand Court to which all members of the Staffordshire North and Staffordshire South schemes would remain eligible.

There would be no change to the rota requirements, just the scheme membership.

THE EXISTING COURT DUTY ROTAS WOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED.

It may be the case that you consider different approaches appropriate for this scheme and if this is the case please make it clear in your response. Please explain your reasoning in your response or indicate your reasons for preferring any other alternative suggestion.